Culture and traditions ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper intermediate) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- What custom from your country surprises visitors?
- What is polite in your culture that might be rude in another?
- Which tradition do young people no longer follow?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
globalization	the process of the world becoming more connected (British English: globalisation)	Globalization has changed local cultures.
cultural appropriation	using parts of another culture without understanding or respect	The brand was accused of cultural appropriation.
assimilation	becoming part of a different culture and losing your own	Forced assimilation destroyed many languages.
integration	becoming part of a society while keeping your own culture	Language classes help integration.
indigenous	living in a place from the earliest times	The indigenous people of Australia have a rich culture.
ethnic	relating to a group of people with the same culture or origin	The country has many ethnic groups.
customary	usual in a particular society or situation	It's customary to bring a gift.
deep-rooted	existing for a long time and difficult to change	It's a deep-rooted tradition.
time-honored	respected because it has existed for a long time (British English: time-honoured)	It's a time-honored custom.
preserve	to keep something as it is and protect it	We need to preserve our language.

Grammar focus (10 min): Articles with places, institutions and general ideas

Zoe tells her friend: “What a day! My grandad is in hospital. My brother had to stay at school late, and I went to the hospital after work to visit Grandad. Then I went to the school to pick up my brother.” By the end of this lesson you can use articles with places, institutions and general ideas.

Form	Pattern	Example
Institutions	school · work · hospital · prison · church · bed (main purpose)	He’s in hospital.
The building	the + institution as a building	I went to the hospital to visit him.
General ideas	no article	Life is short. People are friendly.
Geography	the rivers, seas, oceans, ranges, deserts · no article: countries, cities, lakes, mountains	the Thames, Lake Como, Spain, the USA

Watch for: ~~The life is beautiful.~~ → **Life is beautiful.**. General idea.

Speaking (15 min): A guide for a new neighbour

A foreign family has just moved in next door. The learner prepares five things they should know to feel at home: one about greetings, one about food, one about time, one about noise and one free choice.

Useful language

- It’s common to… / It’s considered rude to…
- We tend to… / People usually…
- In my culture… whereas in…
- You’re supposed to… / You’re not supposed to…
- a custom · a habit · a belief · a superstition
- It dates back to…

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about culture and traditions using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the B2 culture and traditions vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Culture and traditions (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

cosmopolitan · reviving · faux pas · insular · melting pot · dying out · ethnocentric · Xenophobia

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. His views are very _____.
2. The village is quite _____.
3. Using your left hand to eat there is a _____.
4. It's a very _____ city.
5. New York is a real _____.
6. Many languages are _____.
7. Young people are _____ folk music.
8. _____ is growing in some countries.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Tell me about a time you felt culture shock.
2. What should a foreigner never do at dinner in your country?
3. Is punctuality important where you live?
4. What stereotype about your country is true, and which is false?
5. What have you adopted from another culture?

Write

Write 80–120 words about culture and traditions. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 ethnocentric · 2 insular · 3 faux pas · 4 cosmopolitan · 5 melting pot · 6 dying out · 7 reviving · 8 Xenophobia